

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13
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FM USMISSION USBERLIN
TO AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 3938
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION NATO

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EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, WB, GE, GW, UR
SUBJ: REICHSBAHN TARIFF INCREASES

REF: BONN 1538

1. SUMMARY: CHAIRMAN (UK) POLAD MADE AGREED DEMARCHE TO SOVIET EMBASSY COUNSELLOR KHOTULEV JANUARY 28 ON REICHS-BAHN'S EFFORTS TO RAISE TARIFFS FOR ALLIED MILITARY TRAINS. KHOTULEV TRIED TO PASS MATTER OFF AS TECHNICAL ONE WHICH SHOULD BE RESOLVED SOLELY BETWEEN REICHSBAHN AND BUNDESBahn. HE DID NOT INDICATE THAT SOVIETS CONSIDERED REICHSBAHN HAD AUTHORITY TO RAISE TARIFFS ON FREIGHT OR INSTITUTE NOVEL TARIFFS ON PASSENGERS TRAINS UNILATERALLY, NOR DID HE INDICATE RECEPTIVITY TO IDEA THAT ALLIES WOULD BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS MATTER IF SOVIETS RAISED IT IN FOUR POWER FORUM. END SUMMARY.

2. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF REPORT PROVIDED US FEBRUARY
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1 BY BRITISH MISSION:

BEGIN TEXT: HAVING DEALT WITH THE VERORDNUNGSBLATT, I WENT ON TO SPEAK ON THE AGREED LINES TO KHOTULEV ABOUT THE REICHSBAHN REQUEST TO INCREASE THE TARIFFS BY THE BONN GROUP, I ALSO REMINDED KHOTULEV THAT WE HELD THE RUSSIANS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CONTINUED UNIMPEDED RUNNING

OF THE TRAINS.

KHOTULEV REPLIED THAT THIS WAS A TECHNICAL MATTER WHICH THE REICHSBAHN SHOULD PURSUE WITH THE BUNDESBahn. THE REQUEST WAS REASONABLE AND WE SHOULD RECALL THAT OVER A LONG PERIOD WE HAD BEEN READY TO AGREE (WITHOUT RECOURSE TO CONSULTATION WITH THE RUSSIANS) TO BUNDESBahn TARIFF INCREASES FOR ALLIED MILITARY TRAINS PASSING THROUGH THE FRG. EVEN WHEN I REMINDED HIM OF THE QUADRIPARTITE AGREED ARRANGEMENTS OF 1946 (QUOTING DTPT/P(46)283) UNDER WHICH EACH ZONE CARRIED ITS FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR INTER-ZONAL TRANSPORT, HE CONTINUED TO MAINTAIN THAT THE CURRENT REICHSBAHN REQUEST WAS NOT A MATTER FOR QUADRIPARTITE DISCUSSION. IN CONCLUSION, I EMPHASIZED THAT WE WERE QUITE HAPPY OURSELVES WITH THE EXISTING ARRANGEMENTS AND WOULD PREFER TO LEAVE THEM UNTOUCHED. WE WERE HOWEVER READY TO DISCUSS CHANGES WITH THE RUSSIANS IF THE LATTER WISHED TO PURSUE THE MATTER.

COMMENT: THE ONUS IS NOW ON THE RUSSIANS TO COME BACK TO US WITH A PROPOSAL. THEY MAY ALTERNATIVELY ALLOW THE REICHSBAHN TO PUT FURTHER PRESSURE ON US BY INSTIGATING DELAYS TO OUR TRAINS. IF THEY DO, I THINK WE SHOULD BE PREPARED TO TAKE THE MATTER UP WITH THE RUSSIANS CASE BY CASE. END TEXT.GEORGE

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Message Attributes

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Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Sent Date: 01-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
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